TISINGAL:
The Lost Mine
of Panama
Charles Melville Brown

able that during the dry season of 1910 some trace of the once famine "Tisingal" will be found, as by Law Third of January 2, 1909, passed by the national assembly of Pana-

ma, the immense savannas and selvas of the Pacific slope of Panama are thrown open to acquisition on very favorable terms and already a number of Americans, especially of the Canal Zone, have taken up

In the westernmost part of Panama, bordering on Costa Rica, Hes the province of Chiriqui, the richest of the seven provinces constituting the Republic of Panama. Its porth coast is washed by the Caribbean sea, known to the Spanish conquerors as the North sea, while the island-dotted Pacific, or South sea, washes its southern shores. Twenty miles from the Atlantic side and 40 miles from the Pacific is the highest crater of the "Volcan de Chiriqui" or Chiriqui volcano, rising nearly 12,000 feet

above sea level. Two other craters of lesser height rise one on either side of the main crater; then a sheer drop of several thousand feet of sulphur-coated rock to the highest signs of vegetation. Below this on the Pacific slopes stretch beautiful rolling llanos or steppes, lower and lower, on down to the palm-fringed coast line.

Somewhere on these immense slopes lies the lost mine of the Indians, "Tisingal," known to and worked by the early Spanish settlers, who changed its name to "La Estrella," or Mine of the

During the year 1833-34, in going through the archives at Cartago, Costa Rica, some official documents pertaining to this mine were found and permission was obtained from the Costa Rican government for their publication. Shortly thereafter a company was formed in Cartago to send out exploring parties, and although considerable time and money were wasted and several lives lost in an endeavor to locate this mine, no indications of its whereabouts were found.

Reprints of some of the documents referred to have come into the hands of the writer, in which is preserved the old style Spanish in which they were originally written during the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. Translations of these papers have been made and the information contained therein summarized, to which have been added data obtained through a personal acquaintance with the country described. During last year an unsuccessful attempt was made by the writer to ascend the highest crater of the Chirlqui volcano for the purpose of verifying certain Information purported to have been secured in the year 1605 from this point and pertaining to the Tisingal mine. During the dry season of this year a second attempt will probably be made.

Among the documents consulted is one that. literally translated, reads as follows:

Within the limits of the department of Chiriqui, contiguous to the Republic of Costa Rica, exist places rich in gold, known by the names of Tisingal, Quebrada Ancha, Quebrada de Oro and others quite important. The first of these places was explored some time ago by a Spanish colony, which in the year 1601 founded the city of Concepcion de la Estrella, near this mine of great wealth. The excessive stinginess of the conquerors reduced the Indians of the locality to the condition of slaves, they being forced by the Spanish to work, mining the gold of the Tisingal. These Indians became tired of the excessive work and bad treatment and became desperate. In the year 1611 they revolted against their oppressors and exterminated them; but other Spaniards at the place of the mutiny again compelled the Indians to resume the working of the mine and made harder for them their state of slavery. This almost eliminated the Indians from this stretch of

"On the twenty-eighth of September, some years after these happenings, the Indians returned, and without pity or consideration took the life of every foreigner living in the country; and not only this, but, carrying stones from distant localities, they covered up and destroyed all traces of the workings of the mines, and they also razed all houses and churches belonging to the Spaniards. The only traces remaining of these ancient buildings today are the foundations of the church and a bell belonging to it.

"At last the news of the new rebellion reached Cartago in Costa Rica, where immediate preparations were made for revenge. It is known that at the beginning of the year 1710 the government at Cartago sent 200 men by the way of Boruca and Tuis to San Jose Cabecar, a town to the east about 15 leagues from Concepcion. This expedition took 500 Indians of both sexes prisoners and reduced them to a state of slavery, and as such consigned them to the inhabitants around about -Cartago upon their return to that place. These prisoners and all other Indians they met along the way were massacred shortly thereafter.

"From that time all Indians living in the mountains in all directions up to a distance of 70 leagues turned bitter enemies of the foreigners and up to a few years ago would have nothing to do with the white races. Due to these events all traces of the villages of Turrialba, Tuis, Atirro, San Jose Cabecar and other places that lay on the route to Concepcion de la Estrella and Tisin gal were lost and the trails of communication with the mines were covered with brush and upletely destroyed, so that after 40 years in Cartago no knowledge was to be obtained as to the locality of the Estrella and practically no sperson living knew or had seen the mines at

PANAMANIAN INDIANS IN NATIVE GANGE

"Due to the hostility and cruelty of the Indians, together with the dangers of the trails and the unhealthiness of the country, people gradually began to forget about these mines and whoever spoke of making an expedition for the purpose of discovering these mines was considered to be committing suicide. .

The slopes of the Chiriqui volcano are by numerous rivers, in many places not more than a mile apart-wild, rushing mountain torrents that form navigable rivers

near the coast, many of which are constantly changing their courses. Along the banks of these rivers the Spanlards found the richest Indian vil-The Indians extracted gold from the sands of many of these rivers and worked it into weird figures representing alligators, frogs, birds, turtles, fish, snakes, bells, plates, images and others, which it was the custom to bury with the owners thereof in the rock-walled tombs in which their dead were interred.

Among the documents referred to are found the records of an expedition that set out from the city of Garci-Munoz in Costa Rica, in the year 1563, for Quepo, Couto, Boruca and the valley of Guaymi. An extract from this document literally translated reads as follows:

"Going up the Guaymi valley one arrives at a found, and the natives have it worked into all forms; and on being questioned as to where they obtained it they stated that they had gotten it in very big grains from a river four days' journey from that place, in the dominion of an Indian cacique called Ucaraci. Not one day's march from Couto lies the village of Turucaca, the inhabitants of which stated that they had obtained gold in the same river as the inhabitants of Couto. The provinces of Couto and Turucaca lie 50 leagues from the city of Garci-Munoz at the beginning of the valley of Guaymi, 10 leagues from the South sea in front of the Golfo Dulce. It is known that following up the Guaymi valley to the mountains toward the north there are to be found numerous villages, such as Quepo, Couto, Boruca, Aci, Urlaba, Xarixaba, Yabo, Duba, Cabara, Barerto, Tabicte, Arabora, Cabangara, Quecabangara. .

The following year, 1564, another expedition set out from Cartago, Costa Rica, to explore this same country, and the chronicler, writing of their discoveries, says:

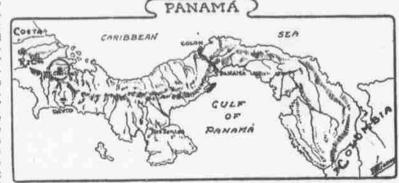
"Crossing the province of Ara and passing the valley of Coaca, we arrived in the province of Terbi and made our camp in the village of Cocuru, which lies in the valley of Duy. And the Indians having brought to the leader a great quantity of gold, he sent the slaves to explore. and they brought back such large pieces that the leader himself decided to explore. We then arrived at a river called La Estrella, which is the principal one as to the quantity of gold found.

. from Cartago the expedition returned to the province of Terbi, to the village of Cururu, in the valley of the Duy (Indian name for Quequexque); and from there we went to the big river which had already been named Rlo de

Since the sixteenth century the land bordering the Sixfela river, which lies to the north of the Chiriqui volcano and which empties into the Caribbean sea, had been in dispute between the governments of Costa Rica and that of Panama. At that time it was claimed by both the governor of Costa Rica and the governor of Veraguas. The province of Chiriqui adjoins Sixiola and formerly formed part of the province of Veraguas, now one of the seven provinces of Panama. After the independence of Panama in 1903 this dispute again arose, due, to a great extent, to changes in the names of many of the rivers of this part of the two countries, some of which still retain their Indian names, while others have been re-The question was finally submitted to President Fallieres of France for arbitration and an entirely new boundary line was traced in ac-

cordance with his findings. The Indians inhabiting the country lying near





OF THE REPUBLIE OF PANAMA MAP

the border line of Costa Rica and Chiriqui have always been hostile and in several instances have risen against the whites and massacred them. The Talamanca Indians, who still inhabit these parts. were especially bellicose.

BIRD SHAPED WHISTLE

OF LOST COLOR WARE

The existence of the "Tisingal" mine has never been doubted, nor is it considered the product of the fertile imagination of the natives of Chiriqui. At Cana, in the province of Panama, at the present time there is being operated a gold mine formerly worked by the Spaniards. Several years ago, while blasting in one of the galleries of the Cana mine an aperture was made into what proved to be buried the remains of a gold mine worked several centuries ago. Leather buckets, with straps that fit around the forehead and around the shoulders of the mine workers and instruments of steel were found in a good state of preservation. The mouth of this mine had been so con hidden that mining operations had been carried on for years almost paralleling the entrance shaft, without the engineers suspecting its proximity. Records of the old Cana mine are in existence, but its exact location had never been fixed before.

Gold can be found in almost all the rivers of Chiriqui. In 1859 there were discovered the first Indian graves, from which were taken gold ornaments, stone figures, arrow points, etc. Since this time there have been found in Chiriqui hundreds of these Indian graves, known to the present day natives by the name of "guacas." The writer himself opened up one grave from which he took 18 pieces of pottery.

It is a well-known fact that the balf-Indian na tives of Chiriqui, knowing the whereabouts of a rich "guacal," prefer to work it alone and to sell the gold found only in such quantities as their needs may require. They are suspicious of the white man, this suspicion and distrust being inbred in them and handed down in tradition from their ancestors, who in truth had cause to hate that race. A hunting and exploring party that recently returned from the vicinity of Buenos Aires and Boruca, in the heart of the Indian country to the west of David, reported that although they were not openly attacked by the Indians yet they were conscious of being constantly watched; that food was scarcely obtainable, and that on several occasions they found the water of the springs muddled, apparently but a few minutes before their arrival If this report be true, and there is every reason to believe that it is, inasmuch as it is but a repetition of former ones of a similar nature, then it is quite evident that the party were not cognizant of the customs, likings and language of the natives with whom they had to deal.

Odd inscriptions and decorations are found carved on volcanic bowlders in many parts of Chiriqui, and these inscriptions, according to the Indians, indicate the burying grounds of the caciques. Many of these decorations appear on the pottery found in the graves and in the ethnological report referred to are classified.

Gold-bearing copper ore has been found in many districts in Chiriqui, especially in that of Bugaba, in which "Tisingal" is in all probability located, the analysis of which has shown 15 per cent. copper bearing two per cent. gold.

The Panamanian government is at the present time planning the construction of a railroad from David in Chiriqui to the city of Panama, which when built, will greatly open up this part of the country and make it more accessible. The Indians of Chiriqui will give way before the advance of civilization and the earth will give up another of her treasures so well hidden for centuries by nature's barriers aided by the avenging hand of the vanquished American.

ALASKAN MEASURE

Creating a Legislative Council Meeting Strong Opposition.

ECHOES OF SCANDALS HEARD

Promoters of World Peace Expect Roosevelt to Head Proposed Commission-Effect on National Politics of Hughes' Appointment to Supreme Bench.

Washington.-While there are renewed evidences that at least four of President Taft's urgent recommendations to congress will be given the force of law, there is still grave doubt about the passage of the measure giving statehood to Arizona and New Mexico, and the other measure which will change the form of government to Alaska

Senator Beverldge, on behalf of the senate committee on territories, has reported favorably a bill "to create a legislative council in the district of Alaska, to confer legislative powers thereon and for other purposes." A similar measure is at present under discussion in the house committee on territories, of which Representative Edward L. Hamilton of Michigan is chairman. The administration wants this measure to become a law, but it seems likely that unless public opinion, which is slow to be aroused in matters connected with the territories no matter how vital to the public service they may be, is brought to bear on behalf of the measure, congress may put it into the postponement bag. "Land of Suspicion."

Alaska has been called "the Land of Suspicion" because suspicion has attached to the motives and methods of men and corporations who have undertaken to exploit its great mineral resources. The feeling that all is not right with Alaska probably has had something to do with the comparatively slow progress of the administration's measure in reaching its present stage. The bill changes the form of the territory's government and because it does not provide specifically for the election by the people of a representative house it has met with much opposition.

The administration feels and its feeling seemingly is shared by a good many men who know Alaskan conditions, that the present bill, which provides for an appointive council, represents the best form of legislation for the territory under existing conditions. The opposition, however, presents

many strong arguments. The administration bill provides for the appointment of a governor, an attorney general and a commissioner of interior and of mines, "who together with eight other persons, to be appointed also by the president for a like term of years, by and with the advice and consent of the senate, shall constitute a legislative council, the eight members last above provided for shall be when appointed bona fide and qualified voters of the terrinow divided."

For Peace Commission

American friends of peace among the nations of the earth are more inclined than ever to believe that Theodore Roosevelt on his return to this country will interest himself in the movement to bring about gradual disarmament of the nations. The colonel talked peace privately to the emperor of Austria, and his speech at Christiania has in it the essence of the Scriptural text about turning the spear into the pruning hook.

A plan is being formulated in this country by men like Andrew Carnegie Joseph H. Choate and Representative Bartholdt to have a peace commission appointed by President Taft with Theodore Roosevelt at its head. Mr. Carnegle and Mr. Bartholdt their friends say, believe that the colonel will lend himself readily to the plan, and if congress gives sanction to the resolution which is now before it and the president approves, it is said to be extremely likely that before many months have passed a powerful peace commission will be in existence with the Rough Rider colonel at its head.

Dr. Bartholdt is a representative in congress from St. Louis and he has introduced into the house a joint resolution "to authorize the appointment of a commission to draft articles of international federation and for other purposes." The St. Louis representative knew the time to strike.

Dr. Bartholdt's Plan. In one of the whereases to the reso-

lution it is said that the United States ought to give public expression to a form of articles of international federation which may be recommended to other governments as a fitting instrument to ameliorate harsh conditions now suffered by multitudes and to do away with the ever-present fear of war. Then the resolution asks that a commission of five members be appointed by the president with duties as follows:

First.-To urge upon the attention of other governments the fact that relief from the heavy burden of military expenditures and from the disasters of war can best be obtained by the establishment of an international fed-

Second .- To report to congress, as soon as practicable, a draft of articles | Republican convention. of a federation limited to the main-

tenance of peace, through the estabhaving power to judge of controversies between nations, and to enforce execution of its decrees by the arms of the federation, such arms to be provided to the federation and controlled solely by it.

Third,-To consider and report upon any other means to diminish the expenditures of government for military purposes and to lessen the probabili-

ties of war.

There are things in this resolution which probably to every one except the most ardent of the peace lovers will seem hard of fulfilment, but admitting of this, there is no mistaking the sincerity and virility of the movement to make possible a gradual disarmament of the great nations of the world.

Want Roosevelt as Leader.

It is certain that Andrew Carnegie and Dr. Bartholdt believe that Theodore Roosevelt, the militant one, is to lend his aid and his comfort to the peace cause. He may do it in one way and he may do it in another, but if congress shall approve of the resolution which Dr. Bartholdt has introduced, President Taft will be askedhas been asked, in fact-to name the former colonel of the Rough Riders as a leading member of the peace commission provided for in the resolution of the St. Louis representative.

The peace men have formed a World Federation league, the details of which have been published before this time. In a pamphlet made public by the league, and which just now is being given wide circulation, for it is con sidered that the time is ripe, there occurs this paragraph:

"The peace of the world reposes in the hands of eight men: The president of the United States, Emperor William, King Edward, the czar, the pres ident of France, the emperor of Austrih-Hungary, the king of Italy and the emperor of Japan. At least six of these eight men are peace advocates. The vast majority of the subjects of all of them will now favor universal peace and will support measures that ill abolish war."

This publication of the World Fedration league is called "Theodore Roosevelt and the Peace Movement. Andrew Carnegle, Richard Bartholdt, Hamilton Holt, Oscar T. Crosby (a graduate of West Point, by the way) and Joseph H. Choate today are working with warlike vigor to secure action by congress which may lead the way to peace, and they expect that Theodore Roosevelt at Christiania or elsewhere will help to make their work easy.

Effect of Hughes' Appointment. Now that some few days have passed since President Taft nominated Charles E. Hughes of New York to the osition of associate justice of the Supreme court, the Republicans and Democrats have had time to figure out what the effect will be of the eliminaion of Governor Hughes from the field of politics. As long as Charles E. Hughes was "footloose" both parties knew he was likely to be a great factor in the presidential year. Now New York's governor is out of it, for when men go to the Supreme bench of the United States, they go on it to stay.

One thing has been notable in the tone of the interviews which politicians have given on the subject of the president's selection of Governor Hughes for judicial preferment. Many of the old-time Republican politicians tory, two in each of the four judicial of New York state have rejoiced opendivisions into which the district is ly because the governor has been re moved from the arena of active par ticipation in New York's political af fairs. Some of the Democrats of New York and elsewhere have shown in what they have said something of jubilation also, because they have felt that Charles E. Hughes was a man who, if he became a candidate for the presidency, might gather to his support thousands of Republicans who might be lukewarm toward other candidates.

Up to the very hour that President Taft sent the name of Governor Hughes to the senate, no one in Washington believed that the New York man would accept the position. There had been considerable correspondence between the president and the governor on the subject of the Supreme court vacancy, and it is known that at the outset the man who was the president's choice did not take kindly o the proposal to transfer the scene of his life's work to Washington and to change completely the sphere of his activities.

Moreover, it is possible that it was something of a wrench for Governor Hughes to give up a perfectly prope ambition, common to a good many Americans, to be president of the United States. President Taft, however, succeeded in inducing Governor Hughes to take the view that duty called him to Washington and so the acceptance came as a suprise to the country, and perhaps if the truth were known, as just as much of a surprise to President Taft.

If the president's policies are enacted into law and the people finally commend his endeavors, it seems that in the ordinary course of political events he will be named by his party to succeed himself; but if something approaching failure to "progress" should mark the present administration's course, it is conceivable that the party may turn elsewhere for a candidate. Of course there is the 'second elective term" for Theodore Roosevelt to be considered, and while nothing is known definitely of the former president's mental attitude toward any plan which there may be to renominate him, it is thought by a good many Republicans that under no circumstances will the colonel consent to have his name go before the

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